

Claims:

1. A method of managing a telecommunications network, comprising:  
displaying a graphical user interface (GUI) to a user, including:  
displaying a sequence of linked configuration tabs corresponding to at least one physical layer network protocol provisioning task and at least one upper layer network protocol provisioning task.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein displaying a sequence of linked configuration tabs comprises:  
displaying a first one of the linked configuration tabs, including:  
displaying a first selection of configuration options; and  
displaying a first forward button;  
detecting a selection of the forward button by the user; and  
displaying a second one of the linked configuration tabs, including:  
displaying a second selection of configuration options; and  
displaying a first back button.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein displaying a second one of the linked configuration tabs further includes:  
displaying a second forward button; and  
wherein the method further includes:  
detecting a selection of the second forward button; and  
displaying a third one of the linked configuration tabs, including:  
displaying a third selection of configuration options; and  
displaying a second back button.
4. The method of claim 2, wherein the first one of the linked configuration tabs corresponds to the at least one physical layer network protocol provisioning task and wherein the second one of the linked configuration tabs corresponds to the at least one upper layer network protocol provisioning task.

5. The method of claim 2, wherein displaying a first one of the linked configuration tabs further includes:  
detecting a selection of at least one configuration option.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein displaying a first one of the linked configuration tabs further includes:  
launching a configuration wizard in response to detecting the selection of at least one configuration option.
7. The method of claim 2, wherein displaying a second one of the linked configuration tabs further includes:  
detecting a selection of at least one configuration option.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein displaying a second one of the linked configuration tabs further includes:  
launching a configuration wizard in response to detecting the selection of at least one configuration option.
9. The method of claim 2, wherein displaying a first selection of configuration options comprises:  
prompting the user to input valid configuration parameter values.
10. The method of claim 2, wherein displaying a second selection of configuration options comprises:  
prompting the user to input valid configuration parameter values.
11. The method of claim 1, wherein displaying a sequence of linked configuration tabs comprises:  
presenting a forward button within at least one of the configuration tabs; and  
presenting a back button within at least one of the configuration tabs.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein displaying a sequence of linked configuration tabs comprises:  
presenting the sequence of linked configuration tabs in a particular order corresponding to a series of steps required to complete the at least one physical layer network protocol provisioning task and the at least one upper layer network protocol provisioning task.
13. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one physical layer network protocol provisioning task comprises:  
configuring a network device port with at least one Synchronous Optical Network (SONET) protocol path.
14. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one physical layer network protocol provisioning task comprises:  
configuring a network device port for an Ethernet protocol.
15. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one upper layer network protocol provisioning task comprises:  
configuring at least one Asynchronous Mode Transfer (ATM) virtual connection.
16. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one upper layer network protocol provisioning task comprises:  
configuring at least one MultiProtocol Label Switching (MPLS) virtual connection.
17. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one upper layer network protocol provisioning task comprises:  
configuring at least one Frame Relay virtual connection.
18. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one upper layer network protocol provisioning task comprises:  
configuring at least one Internet Protocol (IP) virtual connection.

receiving a network device selection from the user; and

wherein the sequence of linked configuration tabs is provided in response to the received network device selection, and the method further comprises:

receiving configuration data input from the user; and

configuring the network device in accordance with the received configuration data input.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the network device is a first network device and wherein the method further comprises:

receiving a second network device selection from the user; and

providing a sequence of linked configuration tabs corresponding to at least one physical layer network protocol provisioning task and at least one upper layer network protocol provisioning task;

receiving configuration data input from the user; and

configuring the second network device in accordance with the received configuration data input.

21. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

highlighting a network device navigation tree location in accordance with each displayed configuration tab.

22. The method of claim 21, further comprising:

retrieving configuration data from a network management system (NMS) server in accordance with each displayed configuration tab and the highlighted network device tree location.

23. A network management system, comprising:

a graphical user interface (GUI), including:

a sequence of linked configuration tabs corresponding to at least one physical layer network protocol provisioning task and at least one upper layer network protocol provisioning task.

24. A method of managing a telecommunications network, comprising:

providing a graphical user interface (GUI) to a user including:

providing a physical layer configuration tab corresponding to a physical layer network protocol, including:

presenting the user with valid physical layer configuration options; and

presenting a forward button;

providing an upper layer configuration tab corresponding to an upper layer network protocol, including:

presenting the user with a selection of valid upper layer configuration options; and

presenting a back button; and

presenting the upper layer configuration tab in response to detecting a selection of the forward button by the user; and

presenting the physical layer configuration tab in response to detecting a selection of the back button by the user.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein presenting a configuration tab corresponding to a physical layer network protocol comprises:

providing a sequence of linked configuration tabs corresponding to the physical layer network protocol.

26. The method of claim 24, wherein providing a physical layer configuration tab corresponding to a physical layer network protocol includes:

detecting a selection of a physical layer configuration option; and

launching a physical layer configuration wizard in response to the selected physical layer configuration option.

